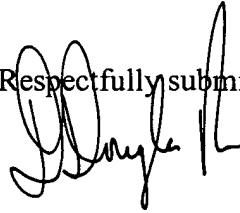


REMARKS

The claims have been amended to delete multiple dependencies in order to lessen the filing fee.

In view of the foregoing, early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Douglas Price", written over the text "Respectfully submitted,".

D. Douglas Price  
Reg. No. 24,514

STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP  
1330 Connecticut Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
Tel: (202) 429-6748